

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 860

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to urge the adoption of the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics for the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in children.

WHEREAS, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most common respiratory virus affecting infants and young children, infecting virtually all infants by the age of two; and

WHEREAS, RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization and one of the leading causes of viral deaths of infants under one year of age; and

WHEREAS, each year, RSV causes more than 125,000 hospitalizations in children under five years of age, and between one and two percent of those hospitalized die from the complications of RSV; and

WHEREAS, RSV can be particularly devastating to premature infants and high-risk children and can result in serious symptoms, such as compromised breathing ability, coughing and wheezing, and lung blockage; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of palivizumab in the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in high-risk pediatric patients. The safety and efficacy of the drug have been established in infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia, premature infants, and children with hemodynamically significant congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, palivizumab has been shown to be both safe and effective in protecting high-risk infants from RSV and has been shown to reduce costly RSV hospitalizations by 45-55 percent among high-risk pediatric patients; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that RSV prevention with palivizumab be initiated before the start of, and through the end of, the entire RSV season, based on local RSV virology and hospitalization data; and



WHEREAS, the coverage policies of the TennCare program and many health insurers in Tennessee are to be commended for enhancing the coverage and treatment of RSV in this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this Body urgently calls upon all public health officials, health insurers, and health care providers in this State to endorse and to strive to adhere to the recommendations issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics as a minimum standard for the prevention of severe RSV disease in high-risk children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that enrolled copies of this resolution be delivered to the Commissioners of Health and Commerce and Insurance and the Deputy Commissioner of TennCare.